

Message Text

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10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DIWY-01 PA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-06 EA-10 EUR-12

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3989

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS GENEVA 4779

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO

SUBJ: ILO - RESOLUTION EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR WOMEN

REF: MEXICO 5455

1. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21, COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WORKERS, OF 60TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE ADOPTED ITS REPORT WHICH WOULD PRESENT TO THE CONFERENCE: (1) A RESOLUTION CONCERNING A PLAN OF ACTION WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND TREATMENT FOR WOMEN WORKERS; (2) A DECLARATION ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND TREATMENT FOR WOMEN WORKERS; AND (3) A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES CALLING UPON THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO TO INSTRUCT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO STUDY THE NEED FOR NEW INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS.

2. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 20 COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY (ON WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED, ALONG WITH USSR, PHILIPPINES, SWEDEN, AND CAMEROON, AS WELL AS EMPLOYER AND WORKER MEMBERS). THE FULL COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY AND CONSIDERED EIGHT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ON WHICH THE WORKING PARTY COULD NOT AGREE.

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3. ONE SUCH AMENDMENT, PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT MEMBER FROM SENEGAL WOULD ADD A FINAL PARAGRAPH TO THE PLAN OF ACTION WHICH WOULD CALL FOR "MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE BETTER CONDITIONS OF WORK AND LIFE FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS WHICH WILL PERMIT POOR COUNTRIES TO COMBAT ILLITERACY, IGNORANCE AND POVERTY." WORKERS GROUP SUBMITTED A SUB-AMENDMENT TO THIS AND PROPOSED TO MOVE THE SENTENCE TO THE PREAMBLE OF THE DECLARATION, "CONSIDERING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENSURING BETTER EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS, OF WORK AND LIFE FOR WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." EMPLOYERS GROUP PROPOSED ANOTHER SUB-AMENDMENT, "CONSIDERING THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENSURING BETTER EMPLOYMENT, CONDITIONS OF WORK AND LIFE FOR WOMEN ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." MEETING ADJOURNED FOR THE WORKERS TO CAUCUS AND THE RETURNED WITH A "COMPROMISE" SUB-AMENDMENT, "CONSIDERING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION, WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENSURING BETTER EMPLOYMENT, CONDITIONS OF WORK AND LIFE FOR WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." COMMITTEE VOTED TO ADOPT THIS WORDING IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION BY A VOTE OF 79,377 FOR; 9,880 AGAINST; AND 76,819 ABSTENTIONS, WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT VOTING AGAINST.

4. OTHER AMENDMENTS CONSIDERED AND ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MEMBER; FINAL TEXT, AS AMENDED, CONSIDERED TO BE ACCEPTABLE BY U.S. GOVERNMENT MEMBER, ALTHOUGH NOT OVERWHELMINGLY SO.

5. FINAL REPORT AND THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATION WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 25.

6. USDEL INTENDS TO TRY TO DELETE OR AMEND THIS PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH IN PLENARY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25. FAILING THAT, USDEL IS INCLINED TO ABSTAIN ON THE WHOLE DECLARATION, ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE SECTIONS THEREOF, BUT OBJECTING TO THE INJECTION OF THIS UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL ELEMENT IN THE PREAMBLE. DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.DALE

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